

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of filing a received e-mail message, the method comprising:

reading a self-describing text-based data structure within ~~the~~ a text body of the received e-mail message;

comparing the self-describing text-based data structure to a plurality of pre-stored text-based data structures; and

storing ~~the received~~ data content of at least a part of the received e-mail message ~~or a significant part thereof~~ in a selected data folder to which the ~~received~~ self-describing text-based data structure corresponds,

the method requiring no external access to data to carry out the reading, comparing and storing steps.

2. (Original) A The method according to of ~~C~~claim 1, further comprising:

creating a new data folder if the ~~received~~ self-describing text-based data structure does not correspond to any of the plurality of pre-stored text-based data structures; and

the storing step data content comprises storing at least a part of the received e-mail message ~~or a significant part thereof~~ in the new data folder.

3. (Original) A The method according to of ~~C~~claim 2, further comprising:

adding the ~~received~~ self-describing text-based structure to the plurality of pre-stored text-based data structures; and

associating the ~~received~~ self-describing text-based structure with the new folder.

4. (Currently Amended) A The method according to any preceding claim of claim 1, wherein the ~~received~~ self-describing text-based data structure further comprises:

a plurality of data sets[[,]]; and

the storing step data content further comprises:

storing each set of the different data plurality of data sets as a record that can be separately manipulated in ~~the~~ a selected folder.

5. (Currently Amended) A The method according to any preceding claim of claim 1, wherein the received self-describing text-based structure causes an interaction action to occur with previously received or existing data.
6. (Currently Amended) A The method according to of ~~C~~claim 5, wherein the interaction action comprises the ~~storing step comprising~~ storing data content of at least a significant part of the received e-mail message in a selected data folder to which the self-describing text-based data structure corresponds, and including overwriting a data set of a text-based data structure previously stored within the folder with a data set of the received self-describing text-based data structure.
7. (Currently Amended) A The method according to of ~~C~~claim 5 or 6, wherein the received e-mail specifies matching data and certain fields of the data structure, and the interaction action further comprises:
 - comparing the matching data for the certain fields of a previously stored data set; and
 - interacting with the data set where the data stored in the certain fields matches the matching data.
8. (Currently Amended) A The method according to of ~~C~~claim 7, wherein the interacting step with the data set further comprises:
 - updating the data set where the data stored in the certain fields matches the matching data.
9. (Currently Amended) A The method according to of ~~C~~claim 8, wherein the updating step the data set further comprises:
 - deleting the data set.

10. (Currently Amended) A The method according to of Gclaim 9, wherein the updating step the data set further comprises:

inserting the a data set provided in the received e-mail in place of the a deleted data set.

11. (Currently Amended) A The method according to any of Claims 5 to 10 of claim 5, wherein the storing step storing data content of at least a significant part of the received e-mail message further comprises:

overwriting a text-based data structure previously stored within the selected data folder with the received self-describing text-based data structure.

12. (Currently Amended) A The method according to any preceding claim claim 1, further comprising:

using the self-describing text-based data structure to create a new definition for a folder; and

applying that new definition to a new folder or an existing folder.

13. (Currently Amended) A The method according to of Gclaim 12, further comprising:

updating a definition of an existing data folder with the a new folder definition if the received self-describing text-based data structure does not correspond to any of the plurality of pre-stored text-based data structures and an identifier of the self-describing text-based data structure matches that of the existing data folder.

14. (Currently Amended) A The method according to any preceding claim of claim 1, wherein the storing step storing data content of at least a significant part of the received e-mail message further comprises:

storing the received data in a database; and
the method further comprises:

using database data handling techniques to manipulate at least part of the stored received data.

15. (Currently Amended) A The method according to any preceding claim of claim 1, further comprising:

sorting contents of the selected data folder according to a user-selected characteristic.

16. (Currently Amended) A The method according to any preceding claim of claim 1, further comprising:

writing the self-describing text-based data structure to a database file external to an e-mail function by which the self-describing text-based data structure was received.

17. (Currently Amended) A The method according to of claim 16, wherein the self-describing text-based data structure further comprises:

a processing command for controlling an application which has access to the external database file.

18. (Currently Amended) A The method according to any of Claims 1 to 15 of claim 1, wherein the self-describing text-based data structure further comprises:

a processing command for controlling any aspect of the method.

19. (Currently Amended) A The method according to any preceding claim of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the self-describing text-based data structure is encoded and the method further comprises:

decoding the portion of the received self-describing text-based data structure before the comparing step the self-describing text-based data structure to a plurality of pre-stored text-based data structures.

20. (Currently Amended) A The method according to of claim 19, wherein the received e-mail message contains an encrypted licence license from a sender authenticating the sender.

21. (Currently Amended) A The method according to of claim 20, wherein the

encrypted licence license further comprises:
the self-describing text-based data structure.

22. (Currently Amended) A The method according to any preceding claim of claim 1, further comprising:

comparing a current date with the a date of receipt of a previously filed e-mail, and removing the previously filed e-mail if a time period between the dates current date and the date of receipt of a previously filed e-mail exceeds a predetermined amount.

23. (Currently Amended) A The method according to of Gclaim 22, wherein the received e-mail message further comprises:

an expiry time, the expiry time lapsing when the expiry time exceeds the predetermined amount. and the removing step comprises removing the previously filed e-mail if the expiry time has lapsed.

24. (Currently Amended) A The method according to of Gclaim 22 or 23, wherein the received e-mail further comprises:

a deletion instruction, wherein and the comparing and removal steps the comparing a current date with a date of receipt of a previously filed e-mail, and the removing the previously filed e-mail if a time period between the current date and the date of receipt of a previously filed e-mail exceeds a predetermined amount are carried out on reading of the deletion instruction.

25. (Currently Amended) A The method according to any preceding claim of claim 1, wherein the self-describing text-based data structure further comprises:

a data structure written in a command language such as XML.

26. (Currently Amended) A The method according to of Gclaim 25, wherein the self-describing text-based data structure further comprises:

an XML schema; and
the received e-mail message further comprises:

data conforming to the XML schema.

27. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for filing a newly received e-mail message, the apparatus comprising:

a ~~store~~ plurality of text-based data structures, each text-based data structure corresponding to a particular e-mail folder;

reading means for reading a self-describing text-based data structure within ~~the a~~ text body of the newly received e-mail message;

a comparator for comparing the ~~received~~ self-describing text-based data structure to each of the plurality of ~~pre-stored~~ text-based data structures; and

filing means for filing the newly received e-mail message in a selected folder to which the ~~received~~ self-describing text-based data structure corresponds,

wherein the operation of the apparatus in filing a newly received e-mail requires no external access to data.

28. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The apparatus according to of ~~E~~claim 27, wherein the reading means, the comparator and the filing means further comprise:

an e-mail management application and a plug-in.

29. (Currently Amended) A method of a recipient processing a received e-mail to cause data interaction[[;]], the method comprising:

reading a text-based data structure within the text body of the received e-mail message;

identifying some pre-stored data of the recipient by use of the text-based data structure;

causing an interaction to occur with the pre-stored data, the interaction being determined by the contents of the received e-mail.

30. (Currently Amended) The method according to of ~~E~~claim 29, wherein the interaction is determined by the text-based data structure.

31. (Currently Amended) The method according to of ~~claim 29 or 30~~, wherein the e-mail further comprises:

a data payload conforming to the text-based data structure; and
further wherein the causing step comprises an interaction is between at least the pre-stored data and the received data payload.

32. (Currently Amended) The method according to of ~~claim 31~~, wherein the interaction further comprises:

overwriting the prestored pre-stored data with the payload data payload.

33. (Currently Amended) The method according to any of Claims 29 to 32 of claim 29, wherein the interaction further comprises:

deleting the pre-stored data.

34. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for processing a received e-mail to cause data interaction[[;]], the apparatus comprising:

reading means for reading a text-based data structure within ~~the~~ a text body of the received e-mail message;

identifying means for identifying some pre-stored data of ~~the~~ a recipient by use of the text-based data structure; and

interaction means for causing an interaction to occur with the pre-stored data, the interaction means being arranged to be controlled by ~~the~~ contents of the received e-mail.

35. (Currently Amended) A method of updating a remote data structure or process, the method comprising:

reading a text-based processing instruction within ~~the~~ a text body of a received e-mail message;

accessing pre-stored data relating to the remote data structure or process;

updating the pre-stored data in accordance with the text-based processing instruction to effect control.

36. (Currently Amended) A The method according to of Gclaim 35, wherein the updating step updating the pre-stored data in accordance with the text-based processing instruction to effect control further comprises updating a sender-defined database on a recipient's computer.

37. (Currently Amended) A The method according to of Gclaim 35, wherein the updating step updating the pre-stored data in accordance with the text-based processing instruction to effect control further comprises updating a functional capability of a recipient's program[[:]].

38. (Currently Amended) A The method according to of Gclaim 35, wherein the updating step updating the pre-stored data in accordance with the text-based processing instruction to effect control further comprises updating the executable code of a program provided at the a recipient.

39. (Currently Amended) A The method according to of Gclaim 35, wherein the updating step updating the pre-stored data in accordance with the text-based processing instruction to effect control further comprises issuing commands to a program provided at the a recipient.

40. (Currently Amended) A The method according to of Gclaim 35, wherein the updating step updating the pre-stored data in accordance with the text-based processing instruction to effect control further comprises issuing commands indirectly to other programs.

41. (Currently Amended) A system for updating a remote data structure or process, the system comprising:

reading means for reading a text-based processing instruction within the a text body of a received e-mail message;

accessing means for accessing pre-stored data relating to the remote data

structure or process; and

updating means for updating the pre-stored data in accordance with the text-based processing instruction to effect control.

42. (Currently Amended) A method of filing data content of a received instant messaging communication, the method comprising:

reading a self-describing text-based data structure within ~~the a~~ text body of the received instant messaging communication;

comparing the self-describing text-based data structure to a plurality of pre-stored text-based data structures; and

storing at least part of the received data content of the received instant messaging communication ~~or a significant part thereof~~ in a selected data folder to which the received self-describing text-based data structure corresponds,

the method requiring no external access to data to carry out the reading, comparing and storing steps.

43. (Currently Amended) A method of updating a remote data structure or process, the method comprising:

reading a text-based processing instruction within ~~the a~~ text body of a received instant messaging communication;

accessing pre-stored data relating to the remote data structure or process;

updating the pre-stored data in accordance with the text-based processing instruction to effect control.

44. (Currently Amended) A method of a recipient processing a received instant messaging communication to cause data interaction[[;]], the method comprising:

reading a text-based data structure within ~~the a~~ text body of the received instant messaging communication;

identifying some pre-stored data of the recipient by use of the text-based data structure;

causing an interaction to occur with the pre-stored data, the interaction being

determined by the contents of the received instant messaging communication.

45. (New) A method of filing a received e-mail message having data content, the method comprising:

reading a self-describing text-based data structure within a text body of the received e-mail message;

comparing the self-describing text-based data structure to a plurality of pre-stored text-based data structures;

determining whether one of the plurality of pre-stored text-based data structures corresponds to the self-describing text-based data structure; and

if a corresponding pre-stored text-based data structure has been determined, storing at least part of the data content of the received e-mail message to a selected data folder associated with the corresponding pre-stored text-based data structure; and

if a corresponding pre-stored text-based data structure has not been determined, creating a new data folder;

storing at least part of the received e-mail message in the new data folder;

adding the self-describing text-based structure to the plurality of pre-stored text-based data structures; and

associating the self-describing text-based structure with the new data folder,

wherein the method requires no external access to data to carry out the reading, comparing, creating and storing.

46. (New) A method of filing a received e-mail message having data content, the method comprising:

reading a self-describing text-based data structure within a text body of the received e-mail message, the received e-mail message specifying matching data and specifying certain fields of data structure;

comparing the self-describing data structure to a plurality of pre-stored text-based data structures;

storing at least part of the data content of the received e-mail message in a selected data folder to which the self-describing text-based data structure corresponds,

wherein storing causes an interaction action to occur with previously received or existing data in the selected data folder, the interaction action comprising:

assessing matching data for specified certain fields of data structure of a previously stored data set; and

interacting with the previously stored data set where the data stored in the specified certain fields of data structure of the previously stored data set matches the matching data,

and wherein the method requires no external access to data to carry out the reading, comparing and storing.

47. (New) A method of filing a received e-mail message having data content, the method comprising:

reading a self-describing text-based data structure within a text body of the received e-mail message;

comparing the self-describing text-based data structure to a plurality of pre-stored text-based data structures;

storing at least part of the data content of the received e-mail message in a selected data folder to which the self-describing text-based data structure corresponds,

wherein the storing causes an interaction action to occur with previously received or existing data in the selected data folder, the interaction action comprising:

overwriting a text-based data structure previously stored within the folder with the self-describing text-based data structure;

and wherein the method requires no external access to data to carry out the reading, comparing and storing.

48. (New) A method of filing a received e-mail message having data content, the method comprising:

reading a self-describing text-based data structure within a text body of the received e-mail message;

comparing the self-describing text-based data structure to a plurality of pre-stored text-based data structures;

determining whether one of the plurality of pre-stored text-based data structures corresponds to the self-describing text-based data structure;

if a corresponding pre-stored text-based data structure has been determined, storing at least part of the data content of the received e-mail message in a selected data folder to which the self-describing text-based data structure corresponds;

using the self-describing text-based data structure to create a new definition for a folder; and

updating a definition of an existing data folder with the new definition if the self-describing text-based data structure does not correspond to any of the plurality of pre-stored text-based data structures and an identifier of the self-describing text-based data structure matches that of the existing folder;

wherein the method requires no external access to data to carry out the reading, comparing and storing.

49. (New) A method of filing a received e-mail message having data content, the method comprising:

reading a self-describing text-based data structure within a text body of the received e-mail message;

comparing the self-describing data structure to a plurality of pre-stored text-based data structures; and

storing at least part of the data content of the received e-mail message in a selected data folder to which the self-describing text-based data structure corresponds, the selected data folder being a database file residing locally and externally to an e-mail function by which the self-describing text-based data structure was received,

wherein the method requires no non-local access to data to carry out the reading, comparing and storing, and

wherein the self-describing text-based data structure comprises a processing command for controlling an application which has access to the local database file.

50. (New) A method of filing a received e-mail message having data content, the method comprising:

reading a self-describing text-based data structure within a text body of the received e-mail message, wherein at least a portion of the self-describing text-based data structure is an encrypted portion, the encrypted portion further comprising an encrypted license from a sender of the received e-mail message, the license authenticating the sender and including the at least a portion of the self-describing text-based data structure;

decrypting the encrypted portion of the self-describing text-based data structure, creating a decrypted self-describing text-based data structure;

comparing the decrypted self-describing text-based data structure to a plurality of pre-stored text-based data structures; and

storing at least part of the data content of the received e-mail message in a selected data folder to which the self-describing text-based data structure corresponds,

wherein the method requires no external access to data to carry out the reading, comparing and storing.

51. (New) The method of claim 50, wherein the license further comprises details that carry out an authentication of the sender.

52. (New) A method of filing a received e-mail message having data content, the method comprising:

reading a self-describing text-based data structure within a text body of the received e-mail message;

comparing the self-describing text-based data structure to a plurality of pre-stored text-based data structures;

storing at least a part of the data content of the received e-mail message in a selected data folder; and

comparing a current date with a date of receipt of a previously filed e-mail in the selected data folder to which the self-describing text-based data structure corresponds; and

removing the previously filed e-mail if a time period between the the current date and the date of receipt exceeds a predetermined amount,

wherein the method requires no external access to data to carry out the reading, comparing and storing.

53. (New) A method of a recipient processing a received e-mail message to cause data interaction; the method comprising:

reading a text-based data structure within a text body of the received e-mail message, together with a data payload conforming to the text-based data structure;

identifying pre-stored data of a recipient by use of the text-based data structure; and

causing an interaction to occur between the pre-stored data and the data payload, the interaction further comprising:

an action of overwriting the pre-stored data with the data payload and being determined by contents of the received e-mail message.